

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 101036Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2739

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: MFA RESPONSE TO MARCH 4 GOG STATEMENT

MFA SPOKESMAN SEMIH AKBIL RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
MARCH 9 IN RESPONSE TO A GOG STATEMENT OF MARCH 4:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER A MEETING AT THE
GREEK GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS UNDER PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS LAST THURSDAY, MARCH 4, "GREECE HAS ANNOUNCED
AND PROVED SEVERAL TIMES THAT SHE DOES NOT WANT WAR. GREECE
ALSO BELIEVES IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH TURKEY
FOR THE SECURITY OF THE REGION AND THE PROMOTION OF
COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLES LIVING IN THE REGION. BUT
AS LONG AS SHE OBSERVES AND ESTABLISHES THAT TURKEY ACTS
RELUCTANTLY OVER THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES, GREECE HAS TO REINFORCE HER DEFENSE." THE
GREEK PRESS CARRIED REPORTS AFTER THIS MEETING THAT GREECE
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WOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL ARMS PURCHASES.

COMMENTING ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AKBIL SAID: "TURKEY CHERISHED NO OTHER FEELING TOWARDS GREECE THAN FRIENDSHIP AND THIS HAD BEEN STATED OFFICIALLY SEVERAL TIMES BY THE MOST AUTHORIZED PERSONS. THE VIEW THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF GOOD-NEIGHBOUR RELATIONS WOULD BE TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH THE COUNTRIES WAS THE BASIS OF TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS GREECE. PROCEEDING FROM THIS PRINCIPLE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF TURKEY INVITED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, IN HIS STATEMENT OF 5 DEC 1975, NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS ALL THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, BUT ALSO TO FIND GOODWILLED SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. FOLLOWING THIS INVITATION, THE FACT THAT THE TALKS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE ON SOME OF THE SUBJECTS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A PLEASING DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, AS POINTED OUT IN FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S DEC 5, 1975 STATEMENT OBTAINING POSITIVE RESULTS TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES FROM THESE TALKS DEPENDS ON THE GOODWILLED, RESOLUTE STANCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES ON THIS TOPIC. IF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN'S WORDS HAVE BEEN REFLECTED CORRECTLY BY NEWS AGENCIES, THE GREEK SIDE'S UNREALISTIC ACCUSATION THAT TURKEY ACTS RELUCTANTLY AT THE TALKS AND THE GREEK ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GREECE WILL CONTINUE WITH ARMAMENT POLICY FAR ABOVE ITS NEEDS IS ASSESSED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT -- WHICH WANTS TO CONDUCT AND CONCLUDE THE TALKS CONSTRUCTIVELY -- AS A MOVE FAR FROM BEING PEACE-LOVING AND RECONCILIATORY AND A MOVE AIMED AT INFLUENCING EXTERNAL SOURCES." END TEXT.
MACOMBER

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